

Exhibit A

Scott Pruitt's office deluged with angry callers after he questions the science of global warming

By **Brady Dennis** and **Juliet Eilperin** March 11

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's phones have been ringing off the hook — literally — since he questioned the link between human activity and climate change.

The calls to Pruitt's main line, 202-564-4700, reached such a high volume by Friday that agency officials created an impromptu call center, according to three agency employees. The officials asked for anonymity out of fear of retaliation.

By Saturday morning calls went straight to voice mail, which was full and did not accept messages. At least two calls received the message that the line was disconnected, but that appeared to be in error.

EPA spokeswoman Nancy Grantham said in an email that the agency “has logged about 300 calls and emails.”

While constituents sometimes call lawmakers in large numbers to express outrage over contentious policy issues, it is unusual for Americans to target a Cabinet official.

Pruitt's comments on the CNBC program “Squawk Box” — that “we need to continue the debate and continue the review and the analysis” over climate change — prompted an immediate pushback from many scientists and environment groups. It also drew a rebuke from at least two of his predecessors at the EPA.

“I think that measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do, and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact, so no, I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to the global warming that we see,” Pruitt said on CNBC.

Pruitt's comments put him at odds with the overwhelming majority of scientists, most world leaders and even his predecessors at the agency.

““The world of science is about empirical evidence, not beliefs,” Gina McCarthy, the EPA’s most recent administrator, said in the wake of Pruitt’s comments. “When it comes to climate change, the evidence is robust and overwhelmingly clear that the cost of inaction is unacceptably high.”

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that it is “extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century” — a position reiterated on EPA’s own website.

On Friday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere rose at a record pace for the second straight year, reaching 401.5 parts per million. The two-year surge in carbon concentrations that took place in 2015 and 2016 has no precedent in the 59 years in which the agency has been tracking the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Despite the quick and fierce backlash to Pruitt’s comments, which put him at odds with his own agency and most governments around the globe, not everyone was so quick to criticize his views.

“If I am interpreting Pruitt’s statements correctly, I do not find anything to disagree with in what he said: we don’t know how much of recent warming can be attributed to humans,” recently retired Georgia Tech climate scientist Judith Curry, who herself has questioned the extent of the role humans play in global warming, wrote on her blog. “In my opinion, this is correct and is a healthy position for both the science and policy debates.”

There is no immediate evidence that any environmental organizations organized the deluge of calls to the new EPA administrator, but a single comment on Reddit may have helped spur the outpouring of criticism. The post outlined how Pruitt’s opponents could contact his office, writing:

“Here’s the number to call his office (EPA Office of the Administrator) to offer your feelings about Pruitt’s comments: (202) 564-4700. Script: Hi, my name is _____. I’m calling because I’m seriously concerned about Scott Pruitt’s claim that CO₂ is not a major driver of climate change. The role of CO₂ and humans as drivers of climate change is widely accepted among the scientific community, and I’m deeply concerned that Mr. Pruitt, as the head of the EPA, rejects scientific evidence.”

In December, the League of Conservation Voters launched a petition drive on climate change aimed at President Trump and his children. David Willett, its senior vice president for communications, said Friday that the league had not organized any sort of phone-call campaign related to Pruitt’s comments but had seen an uptick in support in the past day and a half. The organization launched an appeal Thursday focused on threats to EPA funding and had its second-biggest online fundraising day ever, Willett said, but he declined to disclose how much money was raised.

“It’s not surprising to hear people are calling after Pruitt contradicted his own agency’s science,” Willett said. “We’re seeing record-setting response rates to mobile alerts, petitions and funding appeals.”

Exhibit B



MENU

TECH

SCIENCE

HEALTH

CULTURE

REVIEWS

FEATURES

VIDEOS



ADVERTISEMENT

AdChoices

ADVERTISEMENT

EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Bombarded By Angry Calls After Climate Change Comment

12 March 2017, 11:21 pm EDT By [Arrianne Del Rosario](#) Tech Times

Constituents calling their local congressmen to voice out their sentiments about a particular policy seems normal. But a cabinet official? That's new.

Following his controversial comments against [climate change](#), the office of newly appointed Environmental Protection Agency Chief Scott Pruitt has reportedly been mobbed by phone calls from irate constituents.



Scott Pruitt's CNBC interview on climate change has apparently sparked strong feelings among Americans. His main phone line at the EPA has been ringing nonstop, according to reports. (Aaron P. Bernstein | Getty Images)

The Trigger: Humans Had Nothing To Do With Global Warming, Pruitt Says

The public uproar was prompted by the EPA chief's ill-informed answers on CNBC's morning news and talk program *Squawk Box* on March 9. In the show, co-anchor Joe Kernen asked Pruitt if he believes [carbon dioxide \(CO2\)](#) is the primary control knob for climate change.

"I think that measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do, and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact, so no, I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to the global warming that we see," he [responded](#).

EPA employees who wished to remain anonymous [revealed](#) to the Washington Post that the agency was forced to set up an impromptu call center to attend to the sudden influx of incoming calls on March 10, even deploying its interns for backup.

Fact Check For The EPA Chief



MENU

TECH SCIENCE HEALTH CULTURE REVIEWS FEATURES VIDEOS



the agency Pruitt now heads - has previously acknowledged.

According to the latest [assessment](#) by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.

On March 10, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released an [update](#) about the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Based on the levels measured at NOAA's Mauna

Loa Baseline Atmospheric Observatory, CO2 levels increased by 3 parts per million to 405.1 parts per million in 2016 — an alarming rise in pace for two consecutive years.

Budget Cuts For EPA In Trump Era

The White House under President Donald Trump is looking into serious budget cuts for the EPA this fiscal year — from \$8.2 billion a year to \$6.1 billion.

Experts believe this will greatly impact the agency to the point of it being unable to carry out its core functions. The latest budget proposal also involves a massive staff reduction — from today's 15,000 to 12,000.

State grants will be slashed by 30 percent. For example, the ambitious Chesapeake Bay cleanup program, which currently receives \$73 million, will only have \$5 million in the coming fiscal year. In addition, at least 38 key programs will be completely abolished as well.

"This budget is a fantasy if the administration believes it will preserve EPA's mission to protect public health," former EPA Chief Gina McCarthy said in a [statement](#).

Trump doesn't believe that climate change is happening. He was highly criticized during the campaign period when he said climate change is a hoax by [China](#) to sabotage the U.S. economy.

TAG scott pruit , Climate change , Carbon dioxide , EPA

© 2017 TECH TIMES, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. DO NOT REPRODUCE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

RELATED ARTICLES



Denmark Green Energy Group To Close Coal Power Plants By 2023: Future Belongs To Renewables



'Rogue' Twitter Accounts Are Popping Up As US Scientists Defy Trump Gag Order



Will Obama's Legacy In Science Live On In The Trump Era?



After Women's March, March For Science Planned On Earth Day



WATCH: Caterpillar Discovered In Peru Builds And Crawls In Strange Leafy 'Armor'

ADVERTISEMENT

New Rule in {city}, California Leaves Drivers Fuming

Smarter Finance

41 Most Infamous Walks Of Shame - You'll Be Shocked!

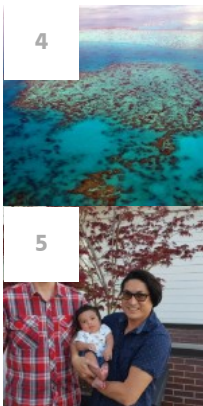
TheCelebrityLane

Why Doctors in the Know No Longer Prescribe Metformin

Vibrant Health Network

These Celebrities Lost All Their Money and Now Work a Normal Job

HeadlineLeak



PUBLIC HEALTH

EARTH/ENVIRONMI
Great Barrier 900 Miles Of Damaged Sir

PUBLIC HEALTH
Hawaii LGBT For Equal Ac Fertility Ther To Heterosex

Huntington's Disease: Research Way To Stop Progression Of The Disease